1 2 3 4 5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 6 7 WODENA CAVNAR; ROSALINE TERRILL; LINDA PARKS; and NO: 2:14-CV-235-RMP DAVID SCOTT, on their own and on 8 the behalf of all others similarly ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO 9 **COMPEL DISCOVERY RESPONSES** situated, AND TO AWARD FEES Plaintiffs, 10 v. 11 BOUNCEBACK, INC, a Missouri corporation; STONE FENCE 12 HOLDINGS, INC; GALE KRIEG; and DOES 1-20, 13 Defendants. 14 15 16 Before the Court is Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel Discovery Responses and Award Fees, ECF No. 36, and a Motion for Leave to File Excess Pages, ECF No. 17 18 35. Defendants have not responded. Plaintiffs contend that they served their first set of interrogatories and 19 20 requests for production on each Defendant on September 10, 2014. ECF No. 37 at 21 ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY RESPONSES AND

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2. Plaintiffs agreed to extend the response deadline until October 31, 2014, but Defendants did not serve responses until November 24, 2014. ECF No. 37 at 2.

Plaintiffs also report that they contacted Defendants multiple times throughout February regarding deficiencies in Defendants' discovery responses but that defense counsel failed to respond until March 4, 2015. ECF No. 37 at 3-4. Defense counsel met and conferred with Plaintiffs' counsel and provided some of the requested discovery, but other discovery concerns that Plaintiffs raised were left unaddressed. *See* ECF No. 37 at 4.

Plaintiffs served a second set of interrogatories and requests for production on February 9, 2015. ECF No. 37 at 5. Defendants did not provide responses until May 12, 2015. ECF No. 41, Attach. 1 at 2.

After Plaintiffs filed the current motion, Defendants supplemented some of their discovery responses. *See* ECF No. 41 at 2-3. Plaintiffs request the Court to compel Defendants to produce complete discovery responses and to award reasonable costs and attorney fees for bringing this motion. ECF No. 41 at 3-4.

1. Production of Discovery

Plaintiffs request the Court to compel Defendants to provide complete responses to their discovery requests. ECF Nos. 36 at 5-13; 41 at 2-3. The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provide that a party must respond to interrogatories and to requests for production within 30 days after being served. Fed. R. Civ. P. 33(b)(2); 34(b)(2)(A). "It is well established that a failure to object to discovery requests ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY RESPONSES AND TO AWARD FEES ~ 2

within the time required constitutes a waiver of any objection." *Richmark Corp. v. Timber Falling Consultants*, 959 F.2d 1468, 1473 (9th Cir. 1992).

Here, it is undisputed that Defendants failed to respond to Plaintiffs' first and second sets of discovery requests within 30 days after the requests were served. Therefore, Defendants have waived any objections to those requests and must respond fully.

Additionally, because Defendants did not respond to the Motion to Compel, the Court presumes that they consent to an order granting the motion. *See* LR 7.1(d) ("The failure to comply with the requirements of [provisions governing motions and responsive memorandums] may be deemed consent to the entry of an Order adverse to the party who violates these rules.").

2. Attorney Fees and Costs

Plaintiffs request reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred in bringing this motion. ECF No. 36 at 26. When the Court grants a motion to compel, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37(a)(5)(A) requires the party "whose conduct necessitated the motion . . . to pay the movant's reasonable expenses incurred in making the motion, including attorney's fees." In determining the amount of reasonable attorney fees, the Court must establish a "lodestar" by multiplying the number of hours reasonably expended on the litigation by a reasonable hourly rate. *See Welch v. Metro. Life Ins. Co.*, 480 F.3d 942, 945-46 (9th Cir. 2007).

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Pursuant to Rule 37(a)(5), Plaintiffs are awarded attorney fees incurred in bringing this motion to compel.

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. Plaintiffs' Motion for Leave to File Excess Pages, ECF No. 35, is **GRANTED**.
- 2. Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel Discovery Responses and Award Fees, ECF No. 36, is GRANTED.
- 3. Defendants are ordered to respond fully to Plaintiffs' first and second sets of discovery requests on or before August 11, 2015. As noted above, Defendants have waived any objection to Plaintiffs' first and second sets of discovery requests.
- 4. On or before **August 25, 2015**, Plaintiffs shall submit itemized billing sheets for claimed fees and costs. Defendants may file any objections to Plaintiffs' claimed fees and costs no later than September 1, 2015.

The District Court Clerk is directed to enter this Order and provide copies to counsel.

DATED this 21st day of July 2015.

s/Rosanna Malouf Peterson ROSANNA MALOUF PETERSON Chief United States District Court Judge

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